PRESS RELEASE October 22, 2004 Immediate Release

## For More Information:

Al Jaeger Secretary of State 701-328-2900

Jim Silrum Deputy Secretary of State 701-328-3660

> or County Auditors

## Counties Cooperating Set Last Day Possible for Canvass of Votes

Under North Dakota law, all absentee ballots with a postmark on or before November 1 will be counted if they arrive at the County Auditor's office before the county's canvassing board meets.

To allow as much time as possible for ballots to arrive and be counted, Secretary of State Al Jaeger has announced that 50 of the state's 53 counties have voluntarily agreed to hold their canvassing board meetings on the latest day legally possible. That day is Monday, November 8. The remaining three counties will hold their canvassing meeting on Friday, November 5 because they are expecting very few long distance absentee ballots.

According to Jaeger, state and county election officials want to allow plenty of time for absentee ballots to arrive especially those from military and civilian personnel living overseas.